

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 1864.

CHRISTMAS.

To-morrow will be Christmas Day, or at least the day observed by general consent of Christendom in commemoration of the great Founder of its faith. We confess ourselves too slightly versed in ecclesiastical history to understand precisely why, of all other days in the year, the 25th of December should have been fixed upon and set apart for this great observance. Most probably uniform tradition, derived from the primitive Church, handed down this day with sufficient authority to command the assent of the devoted apostles and disciples and their successors. At the time of the death of the Saviour there were many relatives of His (according to the flesh) still living, who could and no doubt did impart information upon this subject. All His apostles survived Him and must have heard of and have remembered and transmitted to others the day and month of His birth, although it is somewhat remarkable that of the four Evangelists, only one, St. Luke, gives us any definite information upon the subject. It is true that St. Matthew mentions circumstances connected with the birth of the Saviour, the persecution instituted by Herod, etc., but nothing that would at all go to point out the day, month, or even year, unless, remotely, by the death of Herod; while in St. Mark and John nothing of this kind is mentioned. The preaching of John the Baptist—the Forerunner, introduces the Lord, who comes to be baptized of him.

St. Luke is much more circumstantial, but makes no definite allusion to the time of the year. Possibly the season might be indicated in the 8th verse of the 23rd chapter:—"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night," which, as Bethlehem is in about the latitude of Wilmington, but considerably more elevated, would rather seem to controvert the hypothesis of the season being mid-winter.

However, the speculation is rather out of place. We know that the angels proclaimed to the shepherds on the hillsides of Bethlehem, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And it is with the spirit of this announcement that the kind and genial emotions and observations of the season should be in accord. Such a spirit should be abroad on no day, nor time, nor season, but should pervade our whole life and conversation. Nearly two thousand years ago "a multitude of the heavenly host" proclaimed "On earth peace, good will toward men. Now, as we write, our land streams with blood, and the smoke of burning homesteads rises against the sky as an acceptable incense, a grateful offering of glory to God in the highest, by a people who claim to be followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, and who illustrate their faith by a mock with fire and sword to ruin and murder a people to whom they offer the alternative of death or dishonor.

Many are called but few are chosen—much is said about Christianity, but little of it is practiced. It is almost disconcerting to see these things. It shakes his faith in humanity to think of this. But there is no doubt without an oasis—no life without some green spot. Let us not pass carelessly by the spring in the desert—the green spot in life—because it is not spring or verdant. Let us see upon the blessings of life, let us refresh our spirit by cultivating its gentle charities. Let us hope that many will be able to gather around the family altar, gather gratefully around it to send up a fervent prayer for their country and for their loved ones, and let them not forget to cheer these loved ones by some testimonial of their kindly remembrance.

Let us, in conclusion, but still in advance, avail ourselves of this opportunity to present to all the complicity of the season, and many returns of the same thought under the same circumstances. GATHERING. It seems almost absolutely certain that Savannah has been evacuated and our troops brought over safe into South Carolina. This is better than that Savannah, like Vicksburg, should have fallen, with its garrison. Savannah had no foreign trade since the fall of Fort Pulaski, nor was it the seat of any very important government manufacture, still the loss cannot but be deeply felt.

Next may be apprehended a serious of heavy operations against our line of roads, primarily against Branchville, where, if the enemy could be able to entrench themselves they could evidently do us much harm. Some of the Georgia papers speculate upon a report that the expedition now at sea is destined for Charleston and not for Wilmington. It is said that several new monitors have made their appearance of Charleston. The papers of the latter city make no mention of this.

None of the papers received—Southern papers exclusively—can throw any additional light upon the movements in Hood's army, or elsewhere in Tennessee. The Yankee accounts from that section are certainly unfavorable to us. Luckily they are absolutely contradictory, as in the instance of Forrest, who is killed on the 13th, and leads our rear guard on the 19th. Still, we must bear in mind, that the worst has too often proved to be the most reliable news from all portions of the West and Southwest, and that our own accounts have been quite as often and quite as much at fault as those of the enemy. We would be happy to think that such of the enemy. We would be happy to think that such of the enemy. We would be happy to think that such of the enemy.

BLOWN UP.

A heavy report resembling an earthquake was heard and felt in this town about half past one o'clock last night. We learn that the report was caused by one of the Yankee Steamers off Fort Fisher getting aground, and being unable to get off the enemy blew her up. The explosion shook the houses in town severely.

Miss M. A. Burr.—We have heard that this lady so long actively engaged here in exertions for the good of the sick and suffering soldiers of the Confederate army, is about to take her departure for other countries to recover, and, if possible, to extend these exertions for the same cause.

To the constant, persevering and unwearied efforts of Miss Burr, ever since the war has broken out, we can fully testify, as during a considerable portion of that time this place has been the theatre of these efforts, at least so far as obtaining contributions is concerned. Of supplies forwarded to hospitals, or to the sick or suffering at other points, we are not so well qualified to judge, but we do not doubt that they were commensurate with Miss Burr's energetic appeals, and with the liberality of those who responded to her appeals. No doubt much suffering has been relieved—much sickness alleviated.

We trust that Miss Burr will be equally successful wherever she may go, and bespeak for her a kindly reception and warm welcome by the friends of the Confederate army.

Mr. J. R. Randall, Associate Editor of the *Argus and Constitutionalist*, was married last week to Miss Kate Hamann, eldest daughter of General Markham, of Edgefield District, S. C. Mr. Randall spent some months in Wilmington, connected with the Navy Department. He is a gentleman of fine talents, and of considerable political attainments.

THE TONE of the officials of the United States government towards England has certainly exhibited a marked change of late days, especially since the election of President Lincoln, or since that event became an assured fact.

We do not know what importance to attach to Gen. James Watson Webb's note to the Secretary of State of Brazil, in reference to the affair of the Florida, but we can have no two opinions in reference to the spirit of hatred to England, which it openly and undignifiedly displays. Webb is rather an eccentric character, and not the most prudent politician in the world, but we think in the present case he will be found to represent correctly the position of President Lincoln and Secretary Seward, as indeed the latter in a letter to Mr. Minister Adams exhibits even more animosity in scornfully rejecting the request made by Lord Warranoff and others to be permitted to go themselves, or to send an agent to distribute among the Confederate soldiers confined in Northern prisons some seventeen thousand pounds, the proceeds of a grand bazaar held at Liverpool for their relief. Secretary Welles is equally venomous in his references to those engaged in running the blockade, which he compares to the slave-trade.

But the present ministry of Great Britain is composed of old—very old men, who are not at all what they once were, and who are very cautious, we might say timid. The country is enjoying great fiscal prosperity—trade and commerce have attained a development never before known or even thought of in the history of the world. The people of England are loath to sanction, much less insist upon any course that might tend to interfere with or disturb their present enviable career of material progress and physical development; therefore it is that they have borne and will bear much before engaging in any hostilities that might tend to jeopardize their immense and widely scattered interests. But even to this forbearance there is a limit. Constant irritations can hardly fail to produce their legitimate fruits, and although the English nation is much devoted to its ease and its profits, there are a few people determined to go farther or make more sacrifices when once "in for it." Something may yet come out of the perpetual sneers of Seward & Co.

YESTERDAY we got no Northern mail, so Charleston mail was few Southern papers of any kind. We should not do so were we to hear that the wires are still down and be forced to make the announcement of no news by telegram. A present writing (Thursday noon) we cannot say what may happen.

Among the few papers received are two issues of the *Atlanta Intelligence*, dated from Atlanta, Ga. They are a week old, and contain very little reading matter, and only a few interesting and startling fragments of the return of some, at least, of our citizens to Atlanta. Luther J. Gleason, Lieut. Col. commanding the post, has a sturdy order with a view of bringing order out of the confusion in which everything seemed to have fallen.—*Daily Journal*, 1, 23d.

We think it very ungracious of the enemy to come along about this time, trying to spoil the little Christmas arrangements of our citizens, who, of late have not been living much too high. The high winds and heavy seas of the present week, look indeed like a kind interposition of Providence between us and the untimely arrival of the enemy. We really much question their power to make any demonstration against us for some time, no matter what their preparations or designs may be.

Yesterday, some of the top masts of the largest vessels were describable far away in the offing. We doubt much whether there were any transports. It is very probable that they, comparatively frail vessels, have made harbor at Beaufort, which is not probably more than seventy miles north of New Inlet. The kind of weather that would hardly allow large and powerful vessels of the class of the *Wabash* would probably prove fatal to shallow transports, composed of trading steamers taken up and slightly altered for the occasion.

A rattling widow, a slamming, banging shutter and a creaking door, have been our favorite avocations, but we have gotten to see that there may be good in everything, and have even forgiven a window shutter for breaking two panes of glass for us, a hard thing to replace—a thing painful to think about.

There would not appear to be anything tangible in the study and several reports that have obtained currency in regard to a presumed evacuation of Savannah. If Savannah has "gone up," nobody knows it, at least not that we are aware of. All the railroad communications leading into or out of that city are unfortunately in possession of the enemy. The question of supplies assumes high importance. The enemy cannot get their goods into the Savannah river until they have first captured the city and the works defending it, and consequently until they do, that avenue of communication will probably be subjected to only a partial interruption from the fire of the enemy's land batteries.

By the seizure of the railroad lines, Sherman decided by his advantage of the position, and he is a man apt to realize all the advantages possible to be derived from it; still he has been able to appeal to him who will make all they possibly can out of the means at their disposal, and we must hope that the result will be much more satisfactory than some of our dependent people seem to anticipate.

The blow of the last few days has left its mark upon fences and gates about town, not even respecting the gate leading into the yard of our printing office, and we noticed the same state of things in other neighborhoods, as for instance, our own "Patty" found her way out through certain gaps in the fence of the lot where she was enclosed yesterday morning, and led the servant who milks her a weary tramp before she was recaptured. Had the wind been accompanied by rain the less in this way would have been very great, and the inconvenience still greater from the difficulty, amounting almost to an impossibility, of obtaining labor and materials to effect the necessary repairs. Blessed are they whose fences are not long.

Rain, besides making fences and other things heavier, softens the ground and weakens the holds which the poles might have in the ground. When the Central America went down somewhere about September, 1856, no man at all would remember that the terrible blow was accompanied by a heavy and continuing rain, and that all the streets in town were encumbered by prostrate trees and fences, the trees being in my mulberry and Chinaber trees, probably as being trees whose roots are superficial, and were easily driven out of their hold on the ground by the soaking, saturating down-pour of rain. We think there were not less than eight hundred of these trees alone blown down within the limits of town, and we would be almost afraid to say how many miles of fence.

ROBBERY.—On Wednesday evening last, the shop of Mr. Michael Barry, on a North Water street, was broken into, sometime between sunset and twelve o'clock, and a quantity of shoes, one pair of boots, socks, and other small articles taken therefrom.

About 12 o'clock that night Mr. Barry finding his store open, procured a search warrant, and placed it in the hands of Mr. R. L. Sellers, constable, who, assisted by Capt. Nicholas Carr, of the city police, together with Mr. Barry, went to the house of Mrs. Ann Jane Irving, alias Ann Jane Kennedy, on Front street, where several of the stolen articles were found, which have been since identified by Mr. Barry as his property.

Mr. Kennedy was arrested, together with Charles Barrickman, Michael Powers, Andrew Mullis and Jno. Conway—the latter upon suspicion of being implicated in the robbery—and placed in the guard house.

The case was brought before JAMES J. CONLEY, Esq., Special Magistrate, on Thursday afternoon, and after an investigation of the matter, Mr. KENNEDY was placed under a bond of \$1000, and the four men under a bond of \$500 each for their appearance at the next term of the County Court for New Hanover County, on the charge of "illegally entering Mr. Barry's shop and taking away sundry articles against the peace and dignity of the State." &c.

Cases of robbery are of frequent occurrence here of late, and it behooves our citizens to keep a strict watch and arrest all suspicious characters found prowling about their premises.

On Monday, the 19th instant, Hon. A. G. Magrath was inaugurated as Governor, and Hon. H. R. McOw as Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina. Governor Magrath delivered an inaugural address of some length, in which the most important specific allusion was to alleged abuses of the power of imprisonment by agents of the Confederate Government. The Governor's tone is firm and unshaken.

By the way, the resemblance of names between the Governor and Lieut. Governor will be a little striking when it is remembered that Magrath is pronounced McGraw.

The Yankee Fleet was reported yesterday afternoon as being still off Fort Fisher and East and North of the point on which the Fort is built. 21 were off Fisher; 13 off Camp Wyatt, some six miles up the coast, and one off Mosaboo's still farther up the coast. Whole number, so far as known, 35.

It was talked around that four or five steamers had been run ashore, but whether blockaded or blockade runners so seemed to know, and of the whole rumor we failed to obtain confirmation. We attach very little importance to it.

Some of our contemporaries remark upon the large number of general and field officers killed at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. It is almost without a parallel in the war, and might reasonably lead to the suspicion that the generals and other officers felt themselves compelled to expose themselves very greatly in order to get their men up to "the scratch," or that in leading charges they were not properly sustained, and thus fell victims to their own gallantry.

In some few cases these things may have been so, but from the accounts even of the enemy themselves, our army, as a general thing, fought most gallantly, even under adverse circumstances, and deserves rather honor and glory than reproach or condemnation. It is true our loss was very heavy in able and trusted leaders, and successive losses of this kind are day by day more sensibly felt and more difficult to be replaced. Surely now, if ever, the words of the poet will be felt in all their force and truthfulness:—"The paths of glory lead but to the grave." The chosen chieftain of to-day is the bleeding, perhaps mangled, corpse of to-morrow.

PRINTERS WANTED.—There is hardly a daily paper in the Confederacy that has not this notice at its head. Printers are scarce.

What puzzles us is, how large establishments can be carried on at such points in the Confederacy, absorbing many workmen engaged in executing private work, and not even connected in any way with the newspaper press of the country, while at the same time the regular papers are all short of hands.

But then there have always been things that we could not understand, and always will be, no doubt.

We would respectfully call attention of the citizens of the 4th Congressional District, N. C., to the advertisement of Major S. V. Reid, Chief Commissary of Subsistence for this District. It will not doubt be for their own interest to respond at once to the call of Major Reid, and circumstances, easily understood, but not necessary to be named, may cause an immediate and heavy demand for subsistence.

For the Journal.

Another misfortune. We regret to learn that last night, about 11 o'clock, a distinguished personage while attempting to run the blockade was captured off this port. He came from the hyperborean regions of Texas, from her snow-capped hills on a special mission to the juvenile portion of the Confederacy, literally laden with "sweets," and is represented to have been a man about sixty years of age, of a most cheerful and benevolent countenance unwarmed by time, the "old head was covered with white hair."

And long experience made him sage. He purposed traveling through the Confederacy in his own conveyance, consisting of a magnificent sleigh lined with seals, and covered with eight well-matched reindeer, covered with bells which jangled sweetly to tune to the music of the "bonnie blue flag." He brought over several packages of boxes packed in Paris, filled with the most delicate bonbons, from Smyrna, and dates from Constantinople, and a host of toys and confections, to say nothing of numerous dolls intended for good little girls; rocking horses and velocipedes for obedient boys. Unfortunately this welcome visitor, who was to shed so much joy and happiness on the surrounding country and expectant friends, fell into the hands of certain harpies cruising off our coast, and was immediately and "ceremoniously" gobbled up and sent to New York to await condemnation, condemnation and a division of prize money. The name of this distinguished captive is Mr. Nicholas, commonly called "Santa Claus," and the above narrative will doubtless account for many empty stockings, that will hang around our desolated hearths this morning.

For the Journal.

Measles, Dullness & Price.—As circumstances at present invest our readers with peculiar interest, I thought the present reminiscence might not be unacceptable to your readers.

The London Magazine of December 17th, says "A storm or hurricane, happened in North Carolina, which began on Monday, 20th, 1864, and continued with great violence, but with little loss of life or property. In the morning, the sea was so high, that the water was thrown down, and all the vessels, except one, in Cape Fear River, driven on shore. It forced upon a new channel for that river, at a place called the Rail-Over, between the Cedar House and Bald Head.

"This new channel was found on soundings to be eighteen feet deep at high water, and is near half a mile wide."

C.

From the N. C. Presbyterian.

Knowing that you always like to publish interesting incidents connected with our brave soldiers, I send you one which I have recently heard connected with the death of the late Isaac E. Avery, of the 6th N. C. Regiment, who fell at Gettysburg, while acting Brigadier in place of Gen. Hoke. He was wounded in the neck and never spoke afterwards; his aide carried him to a safe place on the field, while lying there he took a pencil and wrote on a piece of paper, directing to Col. Tate of his Regiment. Col. Tate could not decipher it, and he turned soon after to his home at Morganton, carried the paper to his family, partially blotted out with his blood—he found this message: "Tell my father I fell with my face to the enemy." There are few incidents in this cruel war more touching than this message of a brave soldier to the father who bid him never turn his back to the foe. How can a people be conquered whose soldiers, even in the death agony, bid them tell the sorrowing hearts at home that they fought to the last the hated foe? Oh, that all in our armies and at home had this spirit; we would soon drive the enemy from our soil.

SITUATION AT MOBILE.—Dispatches received in Montgomery on the 11th, from Mobile, reported the enemy in force within 20 miles of Mobile. Gen. McCallough, of Missouri, was keeping them back as well as his limited numbers enabled him to do, but it was apprehended that his brigade was too weak to accomplish the defeat and turning back of the Yankees. The Yankees say five of their gunboats in Mobile Bay maintain a position only about three and a half miles from the shore. A "New Dog River" runs below the city, the Confederates were keeping them back as well as his limited numbers enabled him to do, but it was apprehended that his brigade was too weak to accomplish the defeat and turning back of the Yankees. The Yankees say five of their gunboats in Mobile Bay maintain a position only about three and a half miles from the shore. 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